

GENERIC SAMPLE LETTER TO PARENTS **ABOUT CP POLICY**

Dear Parents,

I am writing to inform you of a matter that is of sincere personal interest to me and is one that I hope is of utmost importance to all of you. I would like you to know that the [School] Board of Trustees has adopted a Child Protection Policy to guide our staff and families in matters related to the health, safety and care of children in attendance at our school. In fact, I am required by this policy to send this letter to parents at the beginning of each school year. Thus with this letter not only am I fulfilling my assigned duties; I also have the opportunity to write to you about this important aspect of our school's program.

The [school] Child Protection Policy is based on international law and on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of which [host country] is a signatory. These two key articles from the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child are important and we wish to draw your attention to them:

Article 19 - Protection from abuse and neglect

The State shall protect the child from all forms of maltreatment by parents or others responsible for the care of the child and establish appropriate social programs for the prevention of abuse and the treatment of victims.

Article 34 - Sexual exploitation

The State shall protect children from sexual exploitation and abuse, including prostitution and involvement in pornography.

By enrolling your child at [school], you agree to work in partnership with the school and abide by the policies adopted by the [school] Board of Trustees. All of us at [school] want you to know that we genuinely value our partnership with you in providing for the safety and care of your children. It is for this reason that [School] has endorsed a Child Protection Policy that defines the standards by which all [school] students should be treated with respect and dignity at all times.

As part of our overall educational programs and specific to our shared responsibility to educate children and to ensure a safe environment in which all children can learn and grow [school] will:

1. Provide age appropriate lessons for all grade levels to help students understand personal safety, needs and rights.
2. Provide parent materials and information sessions to help you better understand our programs and policy.
3. Annually train faculty and staff to recognize and report issues of abuse and neglect.

Let's work together at home and school to ensure that our children are safe and are knowledgeable about their rights and responsibilities to themselves and to each other so they can grow and learn free of fear in a safe and supportive environment. I thank you for your support of our efforts and invite you to contact your school counselor or principal regarding any specific questions you may have in this regard.

Sincerely,